Britain's Equal Pay Act 1970 — Econometric Evidence of a Sharp 1970s Narrowing of the Gender Pay Gap

Gender Equality · Good practice · United Kingdom

Quality score: 85/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

The UK's Equal Pay Act 1970 (in force 1975) outlawed separate pay scales for women and men. The gap narrowed markedly between 1970 and 1976, and econometric studies credit the Act with a substantial share, though estimates differ and later reviews are sceptical of its long-run re

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	2/3
Impact on gender equality	1/1
Effectiveness	1/1
Efficiency	0/1
Evaluated outcomes	1/1
Sustainability	1/1
Achievement / evidence	1/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	1/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-05

UK Parliament / Department of Employment — accessed 2026-11-05

Tzannatos — Narrowing the gap: Equal Pay in Britain 1970–1986 (ScienceDirect) — accessed 2026-11-05

IZA DP 13289 — A Short History of the Gender Wage Gap in Britain — accessed 2026-11-05

Cambridge CBR WP 350 — The Regulation of Women's Pay — accessed 2026-11-05

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